

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY DG/MED:MSWOLFE,M.D.:DBH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS STATE 008595

TO RMO WILDE FROM DR. WOLFE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED

SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TURKEY

CDC IN PROCESS OF REVISING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAV*LERS. YOUR INPUT IN REFERENCE TO POLIO, TYPHOID, HEPATITIS, AND MALARIA IN TURKEY, GREECE, CYPRUS AND ISRAEL WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT SECSTATE WAS*DC INFO ADANA ISTANBUL IZMIR FROM ANKARA 14 JAN 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS ANKARA 0291

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, TU

SUBJECT: TURK COMPLAINTS ABOUT USG IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR TRAVEL TO TURKEY

1. ON JANUARY 11, SOYLEMEZ, APPOINTED ONLY THE DAY BEFORE AS HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UN AND STRAITS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, ASKED THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CALL TO DISCUSS USG RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS AND OTHER
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HEALTH PRECAUTIONS FOR US CITIZENS TRAVELING TO TURKEY.

SOYLEMEZ EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS RELAYING AN OFFICIAL REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM THAT THE USG REVIEW ITS CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND AMEND THEM TO REFLECT MORE CLOSELY THE ACTUAL HEALTH SITUATION IN TURKEY. SOYLEMEZ CLAIMED THAT HEW'S 1973 REPORT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT VISITORS TO TURKEY TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST POLIO, TYPHOID, HEPATITIS, AND MALARIA. THE GUIDELINES FOR GREECE, CYPRUS AND ISRAEL, SOYLEMEZ NOTED, DID NOT INCLUDE THESE FOUR HEALTH PROBLEMS. IN THE OPINION OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, THE RESULT WAS TO DRAW INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND THIS IN TURN COULD DAMAGE TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN THIS COUNTRY.

2. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MICHAEL B GREGIMN M.D., IN CHARGE OF VIRAL DISEASES BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL LOCATED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. DR GREGG, ACCORDING TO SOYLEMEZ, HAD PROMISED THE TURKISH EMBASSY THAT HE WOULD HAVE A NEW LOOK AT THE REGULATIONS.

3. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT POLIO WAS PRESENTLY AT THE LOW LEVEL OF ABOUT 46 CASES PER YEAR. MALARIA HAD LARGELY BEEN ERADICATED SOME YEARS AGO. ALTHOUGH HE KNEW THAT THE USG WANTED ALL ITS CITIZENS TO TAKE POLIO IMMUNIZATIONS, IN THE US OR ABROAD, SOYLEMEZ SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY TURKEY WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION RE POLIO, FOR EXAMPLE.

4. SOYLEMEZ CONCLUDED HIS DEMARCHE WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT ENSURE THAT A REVIEW TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE RESULTS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE 1974 REPORT EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY. WHILE NOTING THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THE MERITS OF TURKISH POSITION, WE TOLD SOYLEMEZ WE WOULD RELAY THIS REQUEST OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO WASHINGTON. MACOMBER UNQUOTE RUSH

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